

REMENDER • CRAIG • BOYD



43
1989

DEADLY CLASS™

BONE MACHINE
PART 4



The Story So Far...

Even before homeless orphan Marcus Lopez joined Kings Dominion Atelier of the Deadly Arts, his chances of survival were perilous at best. But he's managed to live through the worst of it and even landed himself a girlfriend, Maria. Now, Marcus and Maria are the power couple on campus, with far-reaching plans of their own. But school isn't all work and no play—and when the gang retreats to a cabin in the woods for some much needed R&R, the jello shots and spin-the-bottle fun turn deadly in a hurry. But then, the best laid plans...

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AFTER A BAD YEAR--



--AND BY ANYONE'S
DEFINITION, THIS HAS
BEEN THAT--

--YOU TELL YOURSELF THAT
THINGS HAVE TO GET BETTER.



AS IF YOU STORED UP SOME
GOOD LUCK COINS WITH
THE FAIRNESS POLICE.



AS IF ONCE ENOUGH
HORRIBLE SHIT HAPPENS,
YOU'RE OWED A WIN.



THE HUMAN MIND'S
ENDLESS HUNT FOR
MEANING AND
ORDER...



JUST MAKES REALITY
HURT THAT MUCH WORSE.





BEST OF LUCK WITH THAT.

A JUNK SWEATER SPUN BY
KIND-FACED LIARS WITH
CLEVER WAYS TO TRICK US
INTO "POSITIVE" THINKING.

I GUESS POSITIVE
THINKING MEANS SEEING
REALITY AS SOMETHING
OTHER THAN WHAT IT IS.

AND THE FOLKS WHO SELL IT?

THEY'RE THE **GOOD** PEOPLE.

THE ONES WHO SPREAD HOPE.

MAKE US FEEL
SO MUCH BETTER.

AND THE PEOPLE WHO
TELL US THE TRUTH?

WE HATE THEM.

KILL THEM IF WE CAN.

GANG UP AND FACEFUCK THEM
SO BADLY THAT THE NEXT
TURKEY WHO COMES SELLING
TRUTH THINKS TWICE.

REALITY IS,
THIS IS IT.

YOU DON'T GET
ANYTHING ELSE.



RUN.

THE IMAGE WON'T SHAKE.

EVERY MOLECULE OF MY
BODY COMES APART.



THAT MOAN.

CAN'T BE OUTFRAN.

OH, JESUS--NO--



THAT MOAN WAS MINE.

STOMACH TWISTS.

THE SOUNDS SHE MADE
WHEN IT WAS ALL NEW.



SHE MADE IT
FOR HIM.



MOLECULES REFORM.

BUT NOT THE SAME.

A BAD IDEA HITS--

--MY PLAN--

DID I KNOW THIS
WOULD HAPPEN?



STUCK IN A NEW REALITY.

A NEW HORRIBLE.



YOU
COME
TO
ME?

THE NEW FOREVER.



















WHY AM I HERE?



IN MEXICO WE WERE FREE.

OUR BEDROOM HAD SO MANY WINDOWS.



WOODEN BLINDS.



I CONSTANTLY CLOSED THEM.



MARIA ALWAYS CAME BEHIND ME AND OPENED THEM.



TO LET THE SUNLIGHT IN.



AND WITHOUT HER...



IT STAYS DARK.



OH--



SHUNK

SHIT!





LIGHTS,
CAMERA--
ACTION!

IT EXCITES
THE
PEOPLE.

IT'S WHAT
THEY ALL
WANT.



WE MEET AS
INTENDED.

I AM
A POWERFUL
FORCE OF
GRAVITY FOR THE
SOULS FAVORED
MOST.

NOTHING IS
COINCIDENCE.

OKAY.



NOW, WE'RE GOING
TO GO INSIDE AND
YOU'RE GOING TO
TELL ME WHO WAS
INVOLVED IN THE
DEATH OF MY
PETRA.

THEY
RECEIVE A
SPECIAL
LOVE.

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
THE WAY I
MEAN?

SPECIAL
LOVE.

SURE.



I KNOW
EXACTLY
WHO YOU'RE
AFTER.



THIS ONE
WAS FOUND
FLEEING IN
THE
WOODS.

WAS HE
INVOLVED
IN MY
DAUGHTER'S
BAPTISM?

PAULY?



PLEASE,
PLEASE...

I DIDN'T
DO ANYTHING!
I'LL DO
WHATEVER
YOU SAY...



IS THIS
LARVA AN
ALLY OF
YOURS?

ALLY?
I MEAN...
NOT
EXACTLY...

IS HE
USEFUL?



...

NO. HE'S
A RED
SHIRT.



I
DIG.

UGNKK

SHKK



THE
LESSON?



THE ONLY TRUE
ORDER IS THAT
WHICH WE IMPOSE
ON PEOPLE
WEAKER THAN
OURSELVES.

BUT
YOU KNEW
THAT.



WHERE THE FUCK YOU GOIN'?

I'M LEAVING.

THERE ARE MORE OF THEM OUTSIDE!



WE CAN'T LEAVE, SAYA.

THE INJURED NEED HELP.



YOU GOTTA PROTECT US!

I-I'M JUST A FRESHMAN-- I DON'T KNOW SHIT--



YOU THINK I GIVE THE SLIGHTEST FUCK.

LET ME UNBURDEN YOU OF THAT DELUSION-- I DON'T.

I'M LEAVING, AND ANYONE IN MY WAY IS GOING TO DIE.



LET HER LEAVE... VIKTOR WILL PROTECT THE SMALL ONES.

I'M WITH YOU.

NO ONE ASKED YOU, MOD.



SAYA...

IF YOU WANT TO FOLLOW, THAT'S FINE, BUT THE DAYS OF ME TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR *ANYONE* ELSE ARE *DONE*.



DEAD LETTER OFFICE

Send comments and questions to
[WriteRemender@gmail.com!](mailto:WriteRemender@gmail.com)
Mark letters "OK to print".

So, just another happy day for Marcus and the crew. Been building the Helmut vs. Marcus conflict for a long time. Also, nice to see Shabnam rising back to power. We all love Shabnam. What a great guy. We feel bad about Pauly, but, for a redshirt, he had a good run. Okay, nothing of substance to add here without spoiling what is coming next issue, so we should move right into your letters...

Hello Rick,

I've never felt compelled to write in to any book/publisher, but here I am. I just finished reading issue #42, and I cannot express how much I loved it. I was genuinely surprised by that axe to the dome at the end, and a few other things throughout. Jesus, this issue was superb. I've been reading this book since issue 1, and this just might be my favorite of the run. DEADLY CLASS is my favorite book on my pull list (it debuted when I was starting to get into comics), so thanks for helping my interest and love for comics grow. Keep up the excellent work!

Thank you,
Cameron

Glad to hear, Cameron. Lot of the stuff happening in this arc has been building for a long time, so it's important to us to stick a landing. Thanks for sticking with us.

Hi Rick,

I generally pick up comics and trade backs and I find them and whatever looks interesting. I knew your name and that I've read a few by you, but when I was organizing my trade-backs the other day, I discovered that about two thirds were all written by you. You sly mother fucker.

Right now DEADLY CLASS is my favorite, the storytelling is brilliant. I just finished BLACK SCIENCE...heavy my dude. I love the bit at the end with *REDACTED FOR SPOILERS*

I've also tackled LOW, SEVEN TO ETERNITY, LAST DAYS OF AMERICAN CRIME and I'm sure more that I can't think of. I have a couple questions for you:

What comic or book should I absolutely read if I love your stuff? Movie? TV shows? Just one or two somethings I should shove into my brain.

Twin Peaks, Wild at Heart, Road Warrior, Peepshow, and The Mighty Boosh.

In Volume 9 of BLACK SCIENCE, (I think -- I'm not at home right now) there was a variant cover that included characters from LOW, SEVEN TO ETERNITY, DEADLY CLASS and LAST DAYS OF AMERICAN CRIME. Is there anywhere I can buy a print of that? Those are coincidentally some of my favorite stories.

It was a piece by Andrew Robinson depicting many different Giant Generator characters. No prints yet, just the variant cover.

If you were a bird, what kind of bird would you be? (Not asking your favorite bird or what bird you fancy yourself as, though I would love those answers too.)

A penguin. Round belly and useless wings.

Anyway, thank you so much for your imagination and storytelling. I eagerly look forward to the next DEADLY CLASS and LOW (when you get to it). Please let me know if there is anything glaring that I am missing.

This is the first fan letter I've ever sent to anyone. So thanks for reading it, if you did. Please keep that brain whirring and churning out new stories.

Also this is okay to print and you can edit out the BLACK SCIENCE spoilers if necessary :)

Thank you,
Anna McHugh

We did have to edit some BLACK SCIENCE ending spoilers out of this letter for readers who haven't read that yet, but I'm glad you liked it. We worked very hard on it and spent years inching towards it. Thanks for writing in and for the support!

Rick,

Just read issue #41. You know, sometimes I pause after a panel just to soak it all in. Like the opening page of the latest issue. Marcus really is one sad dude. Really wish the show could've gone on. It's the same feels as when Derrick Rose went down in Chicago. Well, I'm glad that you and Wes are still rockin'! I'll be on this train til the end.

Vu Luu

Thanks, Vu. Miss the show and all the wonderful people involved. We angered the gods and thus Gen X types aren't allowed to have anything that accurately represents who we were or are. It's sort of best this way.

Hey Rick,

I've been a comic book fan since I was 12 (48 now), and I can't remember ever feeling as moved to write a creator. I tried the 1st volume of DC a couple years ago, and while I liked it enough to buy a copy for my son, it didn't quite hit me. I picked up the FCBD story and it hit me like crazy! I'm a huge music fan too, and love the talk about bands and life. I promptly binged all the volumes that thankfully my library had, and I'm buying regular issues with #40.

I relate to Marcus so much, the feelings of loneliness, neediness, not fitting in, and being torn between amazing women hit close to home. I

got divorced a few years ago, and the feeling has been like rediscovering myself, like being a teenager all over again. I'm young at heart, and maybe that helps me relate better.

So many reasons to love this book: the honest conversations, music, heartbreaking and shocking twists, and occasional tales over several pages of bratwurst-fueled terror attacks or epic sharting (I was in tears).

And Wes is a genius.

I read that the series is somewhat autobiographical, and I appreciate your openness with your life if that's true.

Always looking forward to journey with you, Marcus, and the fans.

Peace and grace,
Tommy Flick

Thanks, Tommy. The book does use some of the old journals I wrote as a young man here and there. It's awkward, horrible stuff, but it was real, so I use it. Marcus is a hard character to love; he's a lot of the truth of that age for me and the people I knew—the depression, feelings of marginalization, and rage that can be hard to write about as a grown person. It means a lot to me when people identify with it.

Dear Rick,

I so wanted to send this note the old-fashioned way - on paper, in an envelope, through

the mail - but, alas, I, like you, dream wistful Gen-X dreams of pen-to-paper intimacy, Wednesday evening comic shop banter, and precocious debates (and D&D games) in the back of the leftie bookstore. So, I'll make do with email, which is a suitable enough method I guess for me to say an overdue thank you for DEADLY CLASS. I can't think of a finer way to make peace with middle age than a coming-of-age '80s story about frustrated assassins.

But that's not why I write to you. I write to you because my wife and I recently adopted a baby. And, amidst the joy of this last year, I confess to you one fear: that I may too old, already in my late 40s, to relate to my son's youth. What wisdom do I have for a person growing up in this fraught time?

But then I remembered your book. For, while I can't say I personally relate to Marcus, whose cynicism emerged much earlier than mine, I can say that I find in your comic the universal themes of youth - loss, love, discontent, belonging, isolation, and betrayal. I will hold DEADLY CLASS close to me as he grows up, with DeLillo's *Libra*, Smith's *Easter*, Shea's & Anton's *Illuminatus! Trilogy*, and all the other things of my fraught youth that make me who I am today.

I don't have any art to show you because I can't draw. But here is a snippet of an old lyric that I like. I think Marcus would like it, too. Thanks again.

*'Everything you dream of;
Is right in front of you; And*

ART BY GENCAY KAYA

everything is a lie.'

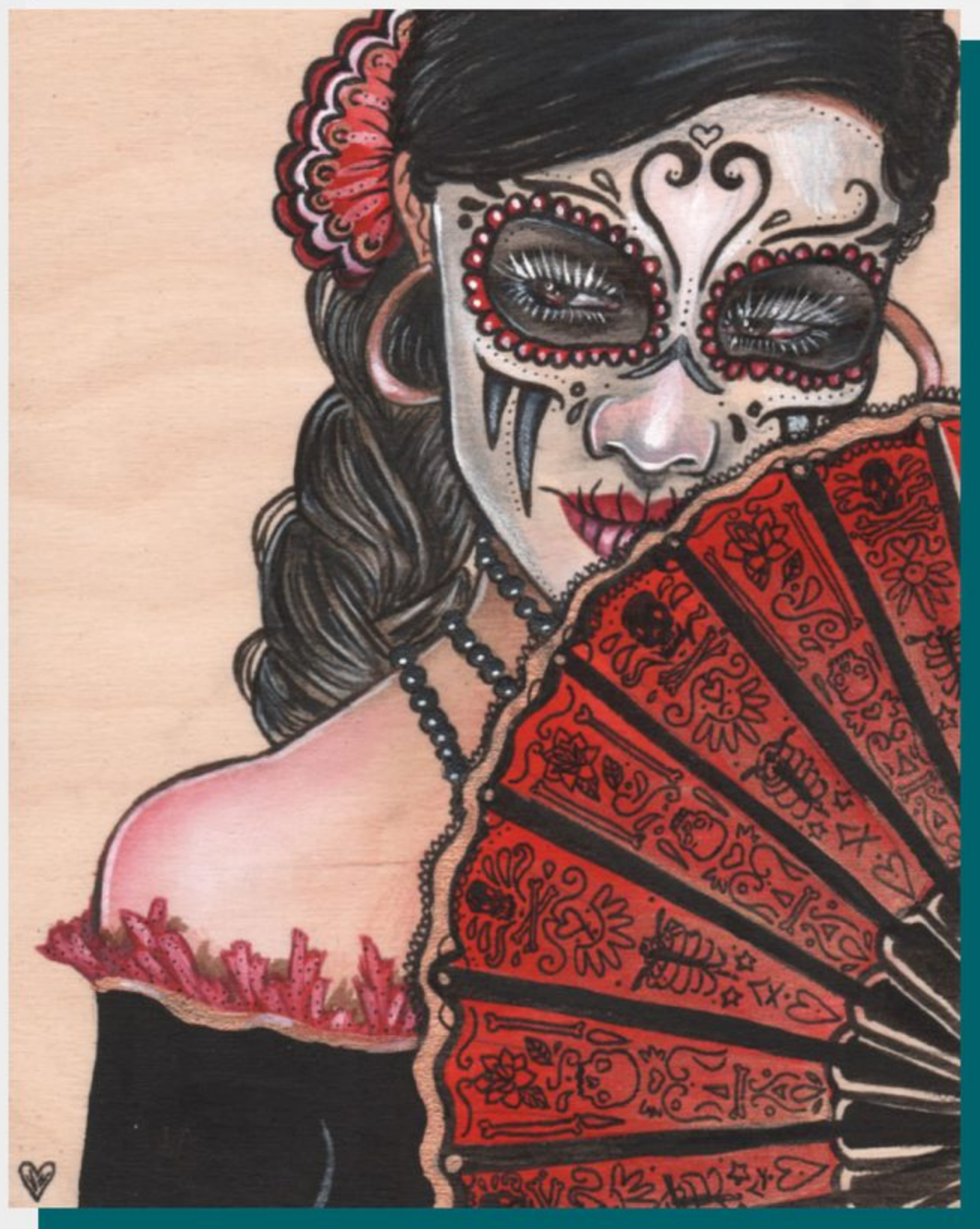
Jim A
Williamsburg, VA

That is incredibly nice of you to say. Lot of good company to be in there.

I think you'll do fine as a new father at this age, because Gen Z is raised by Gen X, and they will be a nice countermeasure to some of the broken bits of our culture at present. You can already see Gen Z making great art and music that is informed by their Gen X parents. And beyond the generational stuff, wisdom and love are always the same, and if you're giving your son that, he'll be great. We can only teach our kids what we know and what we believe, and they'll find their own truth with that as a foundation.

That's it for this month. Next issue is the explosion that will set in motion the biggest story we've done to date.

Rick



ART BY VIC HOLLINS
INSTAGRAM @VICHOLLINSART

THE DEADLY ARTS

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the email marked "OK TO PRINT" to:
WriteRemender@gmail.com.

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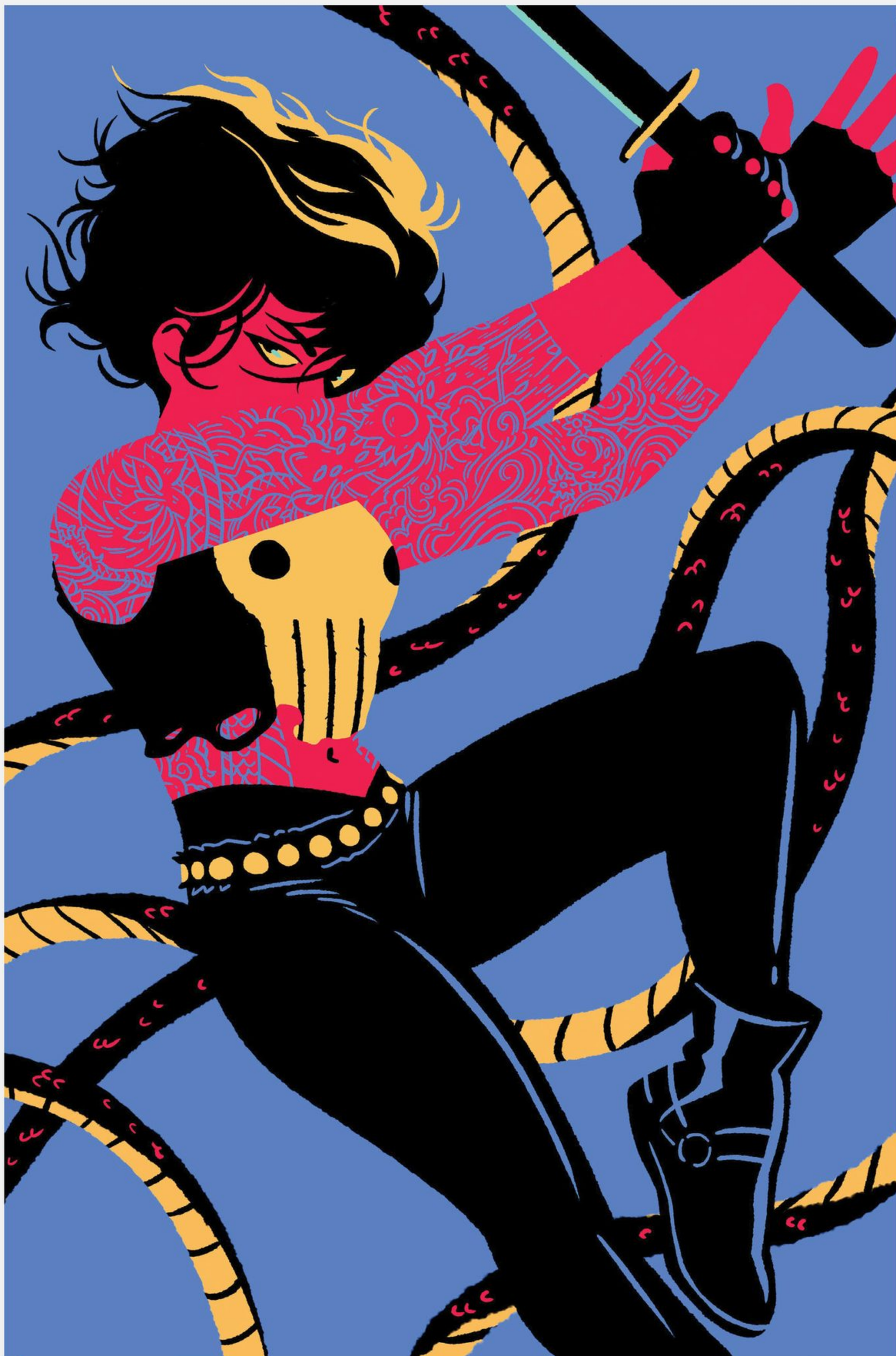
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AND ONE WOMAN
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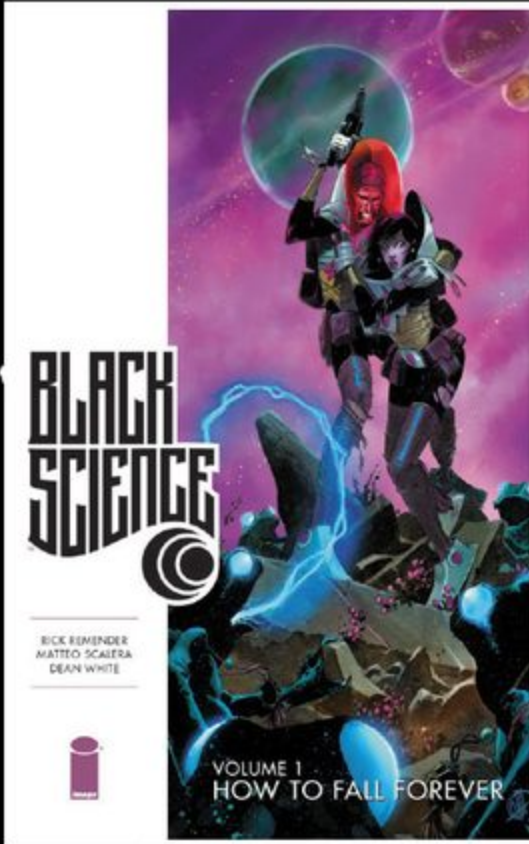
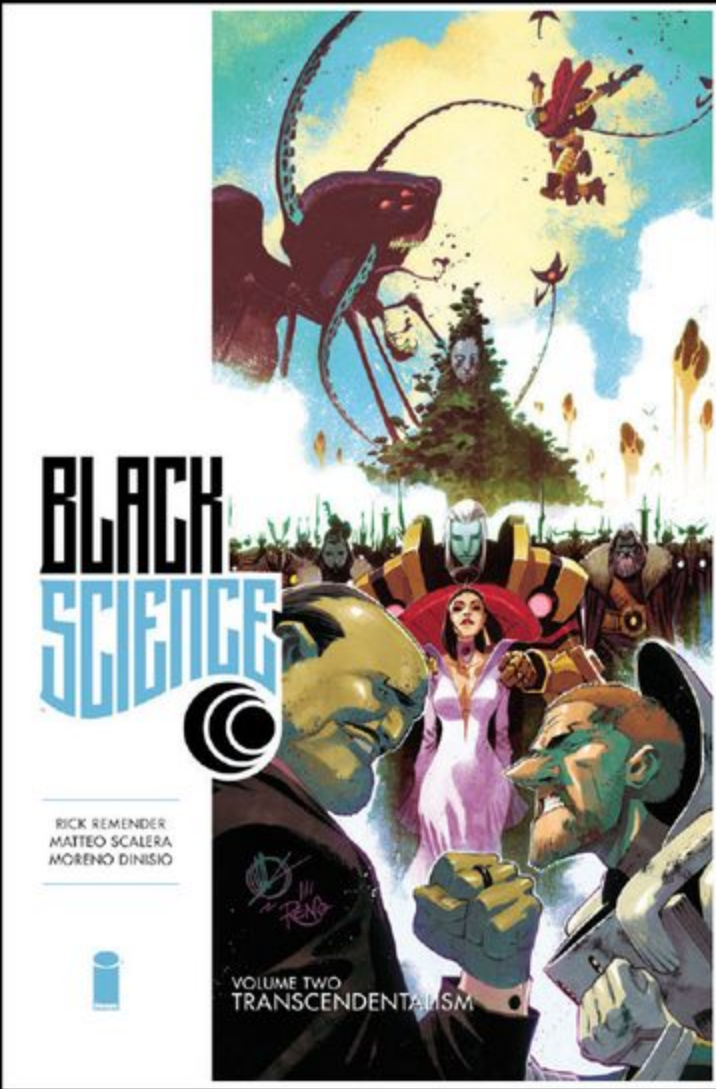
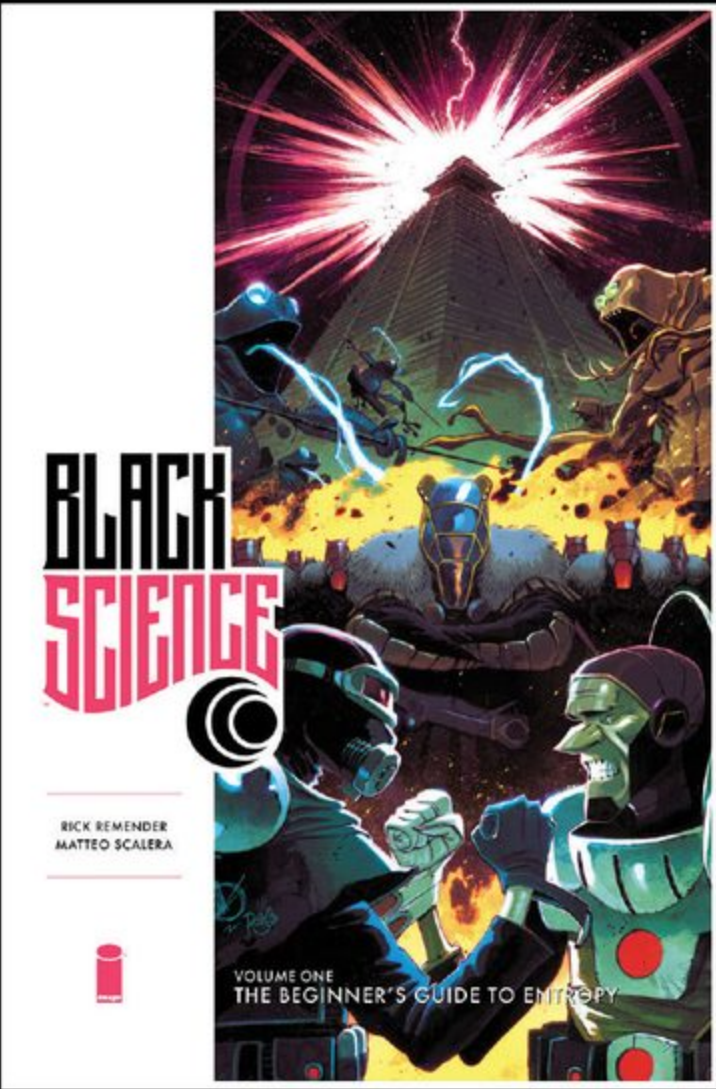
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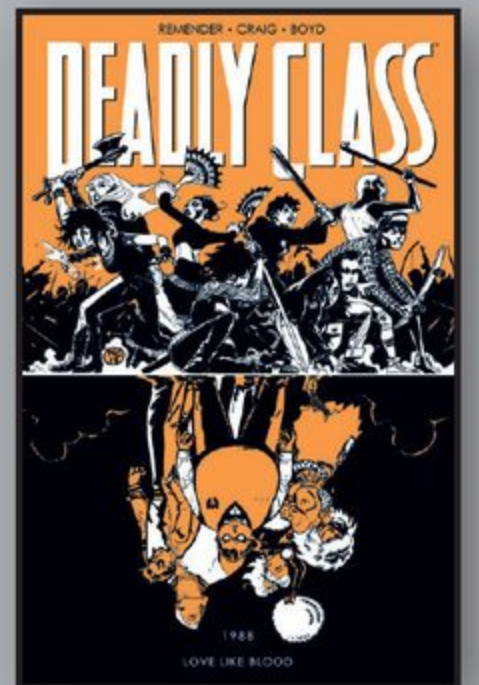
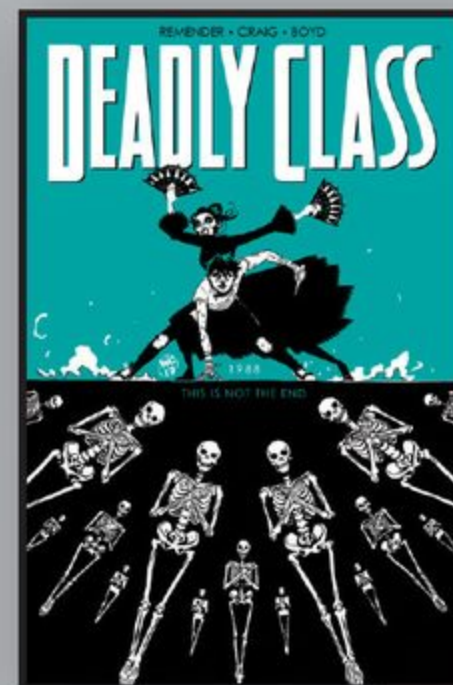
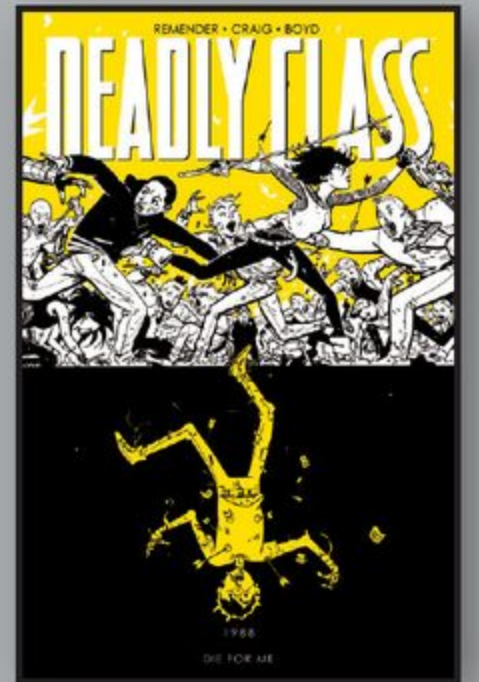
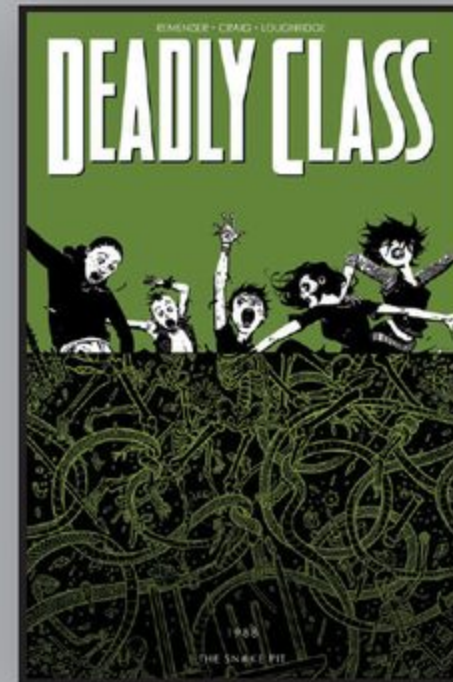
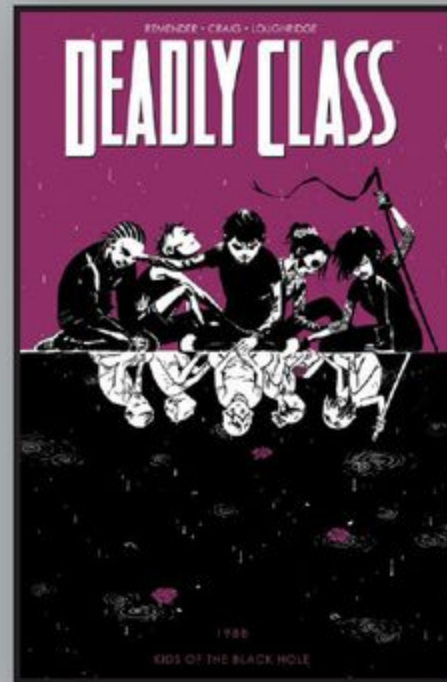
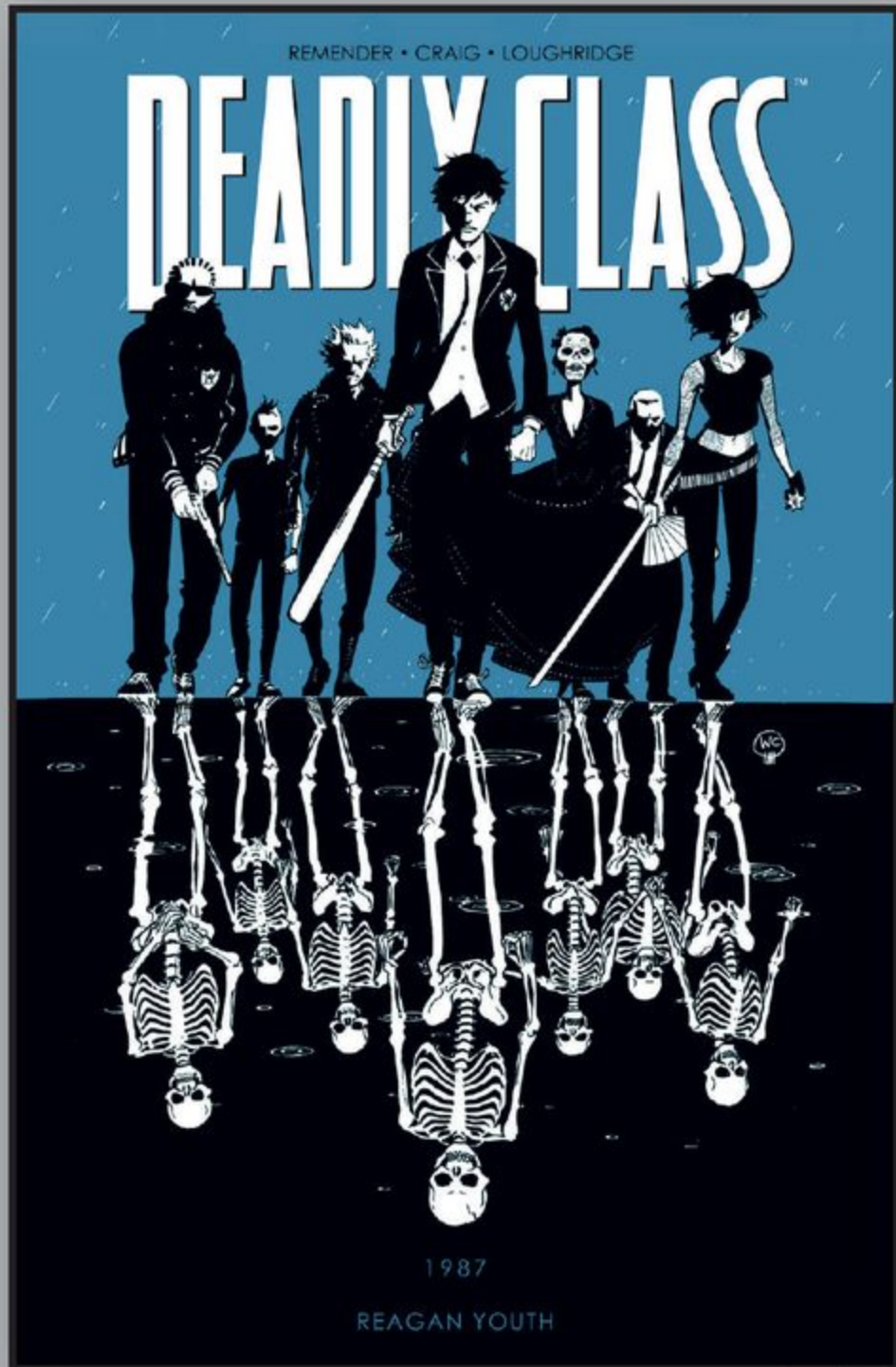


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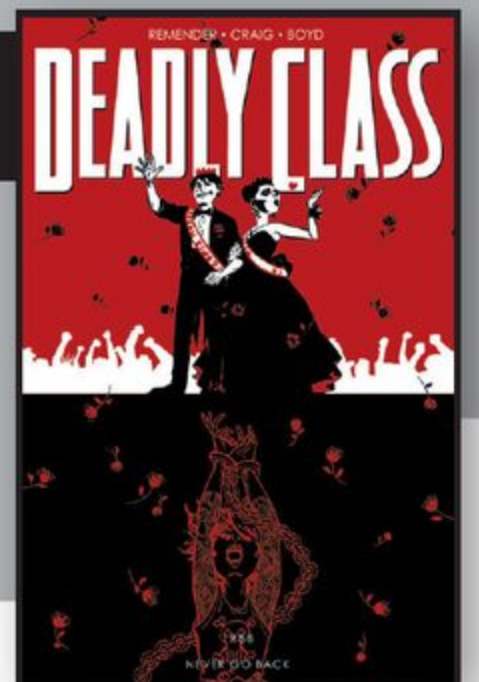
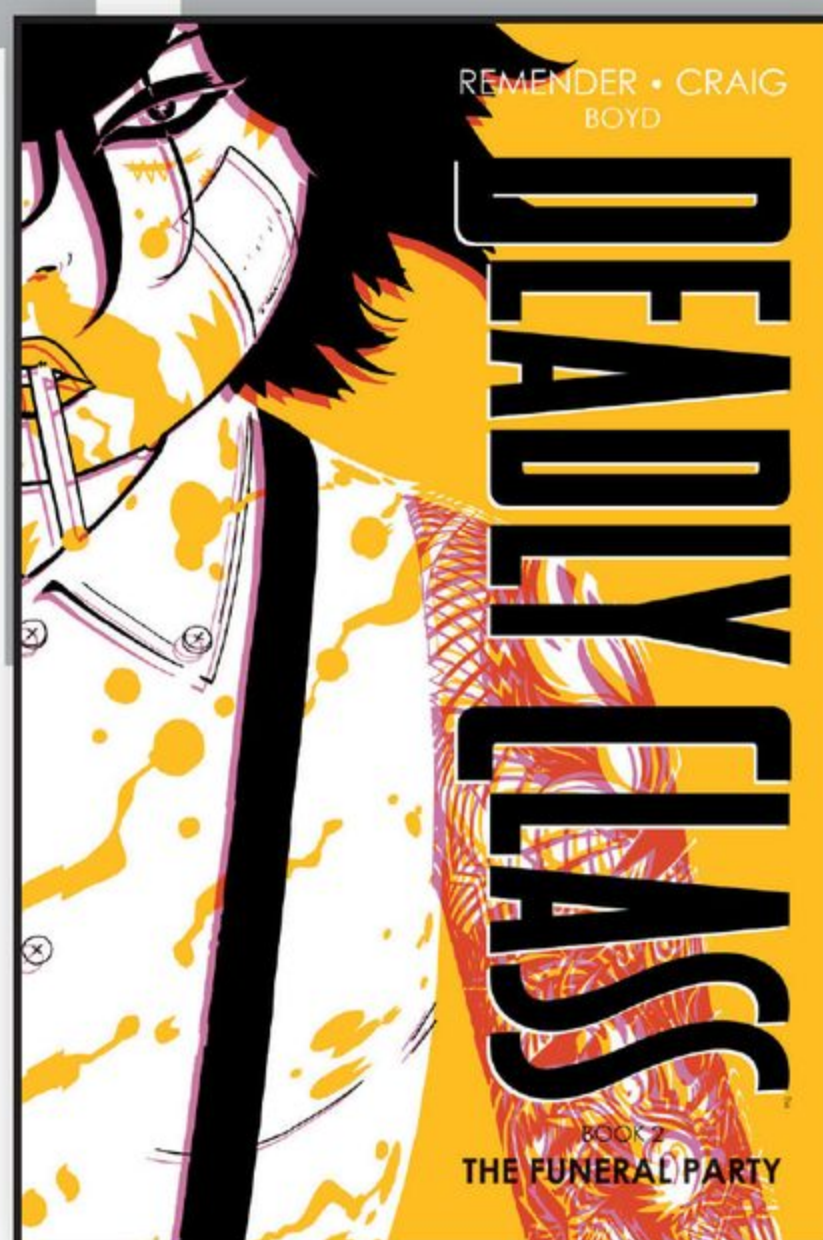
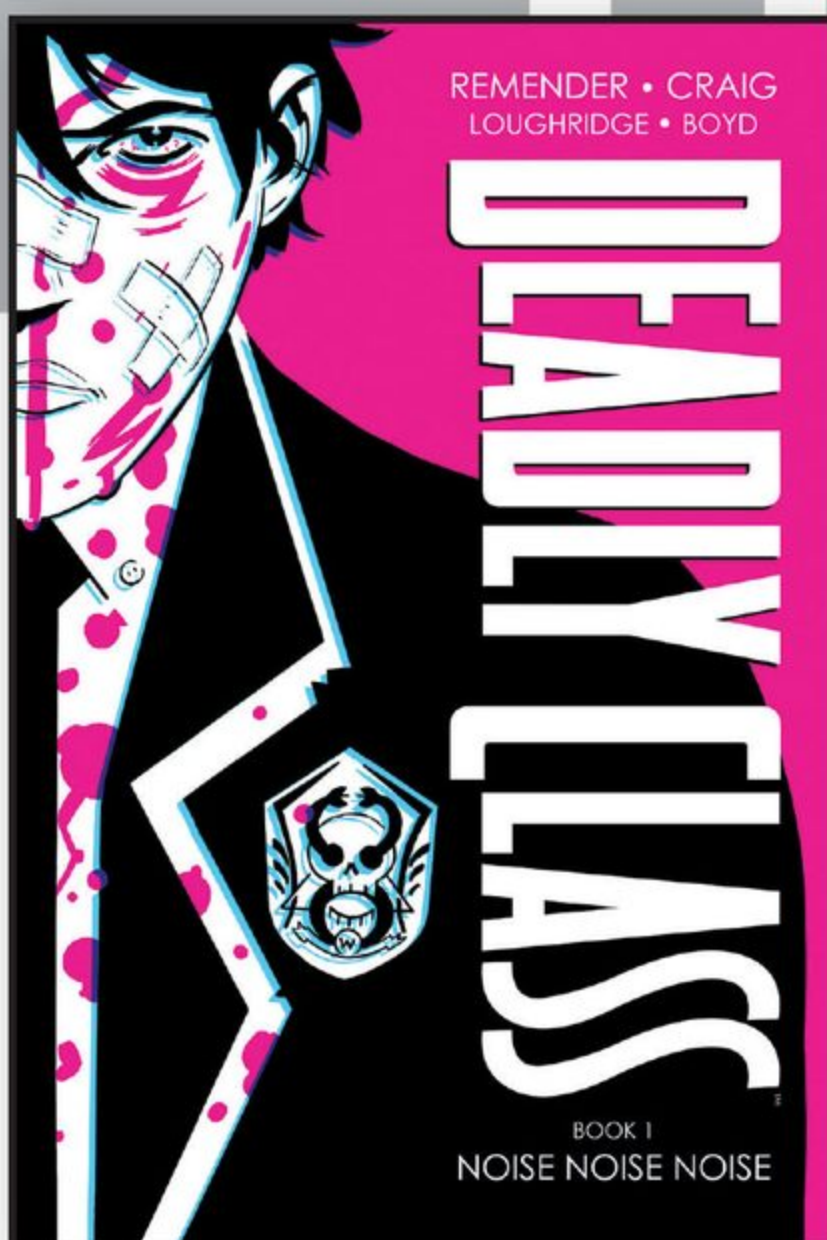
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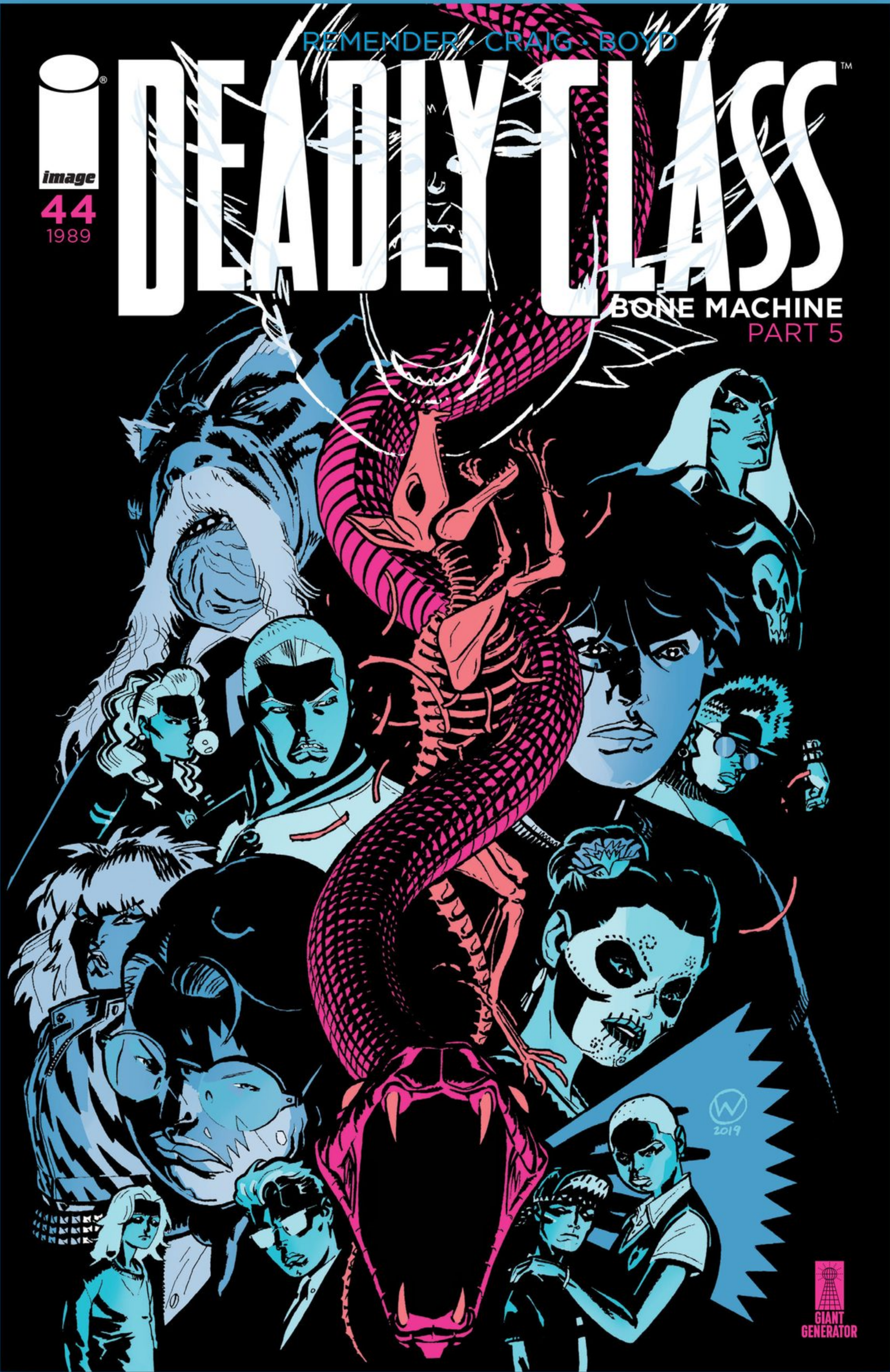
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